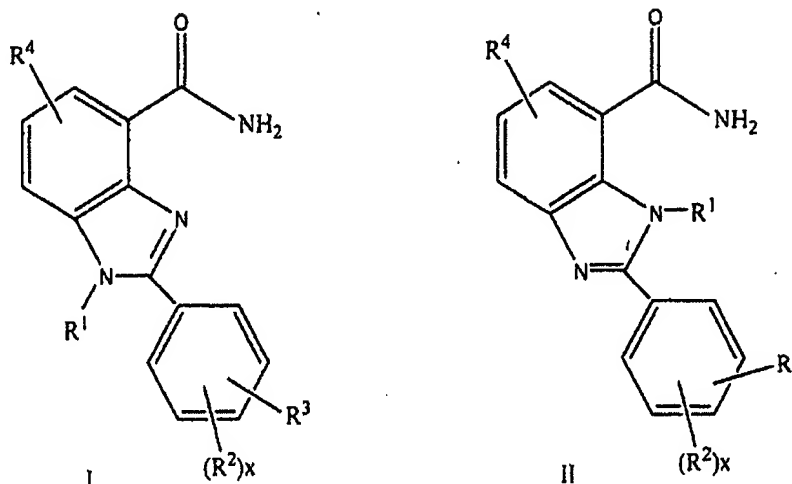


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II



in which

R^1 is hydrogen, or branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom

of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5 , where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and

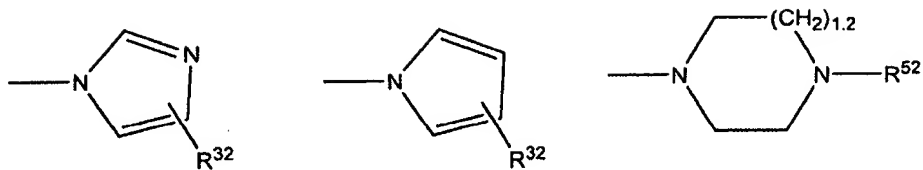
R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , CF_3 , nitro, $NHCO R^{21}$, $NR^{22}R^{23}$, OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, NH_2 , CN, a straight or branched C_4 - C_6 C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, OR^{21} or phenyl, it also being possible for the phenyl rings to be substituted by at most two radicals R^{24} , and

R^{21} and R^{22} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and R^{23} is OH, C_1 - C_6 -

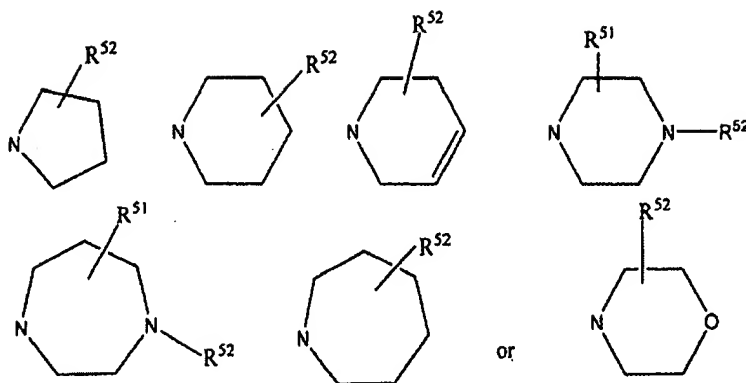
alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , nitro or NH_2 , and

x may be 0, 1 or 2 and

R^3 is $-O-(CH_2)_o (CHR^{31})_m -(CH_2)-G$, where R^{31} is hydrogen, OH, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or O- C_1 - C_4 alkyl, m and o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2 and n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,



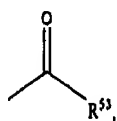
- D-(F¹)_p-(E)_q-(F²)_r, -G, where p, q and r may not simultaneously be 0, or is -E-(D)_u-(F²)₈-(G)_v, it also being possible for the radical E to be substituted by one or two radicals A, and if v = 0, E is imidazole, pyrrole, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, or R³ is B and
- R⁴ is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF₃, CN, NR⁴¹R⁴², NH-CO-R⁴³, or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where R⁴¹ and R⁴² independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl
- and R⁴³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl or phenyl, and
- D is S or θ Q
- E is phenyl, imidazole, pyrrole, thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, furan, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrrolidine, piperidine, or trihydroazepine and
- F¹ is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it, also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl group and
- F² is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C₁-C₄-alkyl group and
- p may be 0 or 1
- q may be 0 or 1, and
- r may be 0 or 1 and
- s may be 0 or 1
- u may be 0 or 1
- v may be 0 or 1
- G may be NR⁵¹R⁵² or



where

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched, and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, or $(CH_2)_n$ -K and

R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl, $COCH_3$, $COCF_3$,



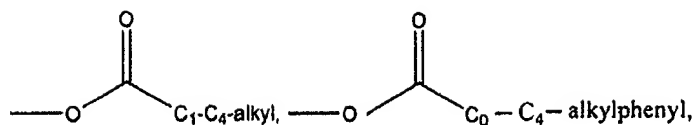
$-SO_2R^{53}$, $-(C=N)-R^{53}$, $-(C=N)-NHR^{53}$, or $-CO-NHR^{53}$

in which

R^{53} may be branched or unbranched O - C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl, or branched or unbranched C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, where in the case of R^{52} and R^{53} , independently of one another, one hydrogen of the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, it also being possible for the carbocycles of the radicals R^{52} and R^{53} independently of one another to carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, branched or unbranched O - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

OH, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3 , NO_2 , NO_2 , NH_2 , CN, COOH, $COOC_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylamino, CCl_3 , C_1 - C_4 C_1 - C_4 -dialkylamino, SO_2 - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, SO_2 phenyl, $CONH_2$, $CONH$ - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, $CONH$ phenyl, $CONH$ -

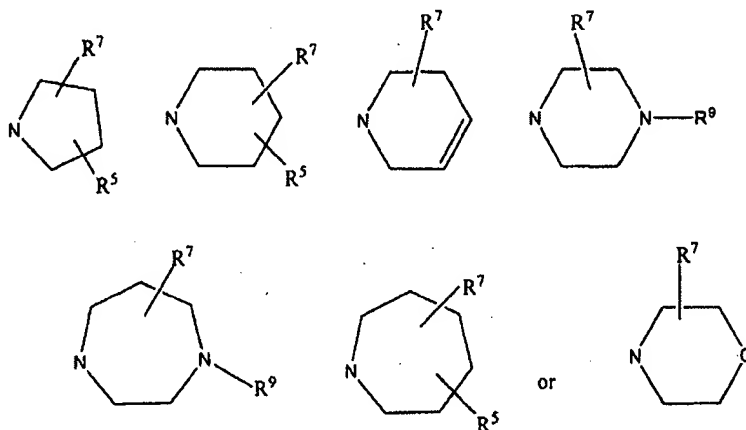
C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, $NHSO_2$ - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, $NHSO_2$ phenyl, S - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,



CHO, CH₂-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CH₂O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -CH₂OH, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH-C₁-C₄-alkyl

or two radicals form a bridge -O-(CH₂)_{1,2}-O-,

B may be



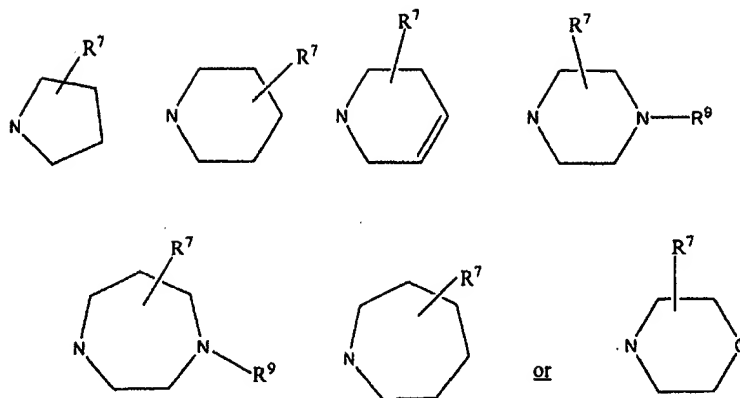
and

A may be hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF₃, nitro, OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, O-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, NH₂, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, CN, or NH-CO-R³³, where R³³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl and

t is 0, 1, 2, ~~3 or~~ 3 or 4 and

K is phenyl, NR^{k1}R^{k2} where R^{k1} and R^{k2} are as defined for R⁴¹ and R⁴² respectively, NH-C₁-C₄-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1, 2, 5, 6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, and C₄-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1,2, 5, 6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C₁-C₆-alkyl, and

R⁵ may be hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, or NR⁷R⁹ and



and

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, or phenyl, it also being possible for the rings to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{71} , and

R^{71} is OH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , nitro, or NH_2 , and

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl, or C_1 - C_4 C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, it also being possible for the ring to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{81} , and

R^{81} is OH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3 , nitro, or NH_2 and

R^9 is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, $CO-O-C_1-C_4$ -alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, it being possible for one or two hydrogens of the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical to be substituted in each case by one of the following radicals: OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and phenyl, and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: iodine, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, C_1 - C_4 C_1 - C_4 -dialkylamino, OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, CN, CF_3 , or SO_2 - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or diastereomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, it also being possible for

one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5 , where

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, nitro, CF_3 , CN , $NR^{22}R^{23}$, $NH-CO-R^{21}$, OR^{21} , where

R^{21} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and

R^3 is $-O-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$, where

R^{31} is hydrogen, OH or O - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

m, o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

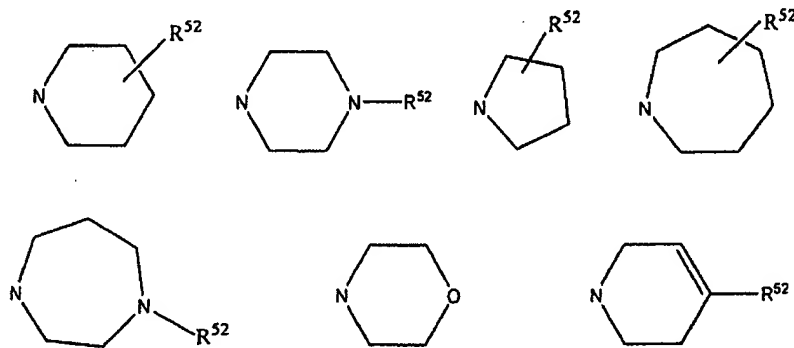
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, $NH-CO-R^{43}$, OR^{41} where

R^{41} and R^{42} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and

R^{43} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl, and

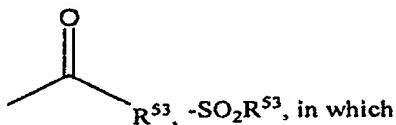
G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the following radicals



where

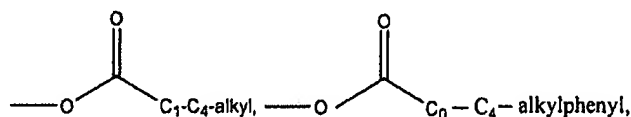
R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl phenyl,



R^{53} is branched or unbranched O - C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, phenyl, branched or unbranched C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl, where one hydrogen in the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical in R^{52} and R^{53} are,

independently of one another, optionally substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R⁵² and R⁵³ radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, OH, F, ~~C₁-Br, I, CF₃, NO₂, Cl, Br, I, CF₃, NO₂~~, NH₂, CN, COOH, COOC₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylamino, CCl₃, C₁-C₄-dialkylamino, SO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, SO₂ phenyl, CONH₂, CONH-C₁-C₄ alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, NHSO₂-C₁-C₄-alkyl, NHSO₂phenyl, S-C₁-C₄-alkyl,



CHO, CH₂ -O-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CH₂O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, -CH₂OH, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl-phenyl, SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH-C₁-C₄-alkyl or two radicals form a bridge -O-(CH₂)_{1,2}-O -,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or. disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R¹ is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR¹¹ or a group R⁵, where

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

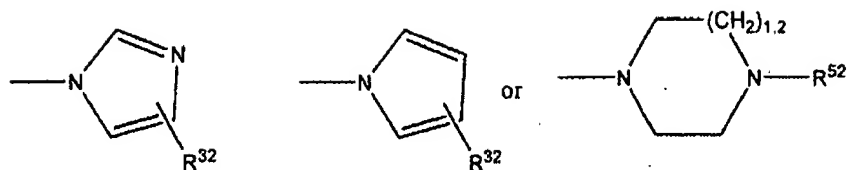
R² is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C₁-C₆-alkyl, nitro, CF₃, CN, NR²²R²³, NH-CO-R²¹, OR²¹, where

R²¹ and R²² ~~independently of one another are~~ is hydrogen or

C₁-C₄-alkyl and

R²³ ~~is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or phenyl~~

R³ is



and

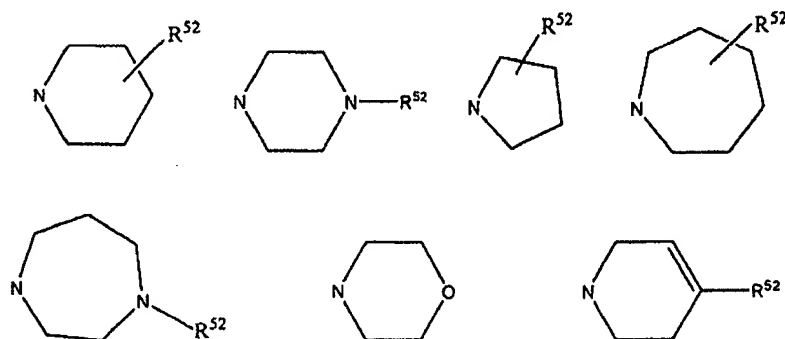
R^{32} is hydrogen and $-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$ where R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, OH and O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, m, o independently of one another are $\neq 0$, 1 or 2 and n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, $NH-CO-R^{43}$, OR^{41} , where

R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

R^{43} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or phenyl, and,

G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the radicals below



where

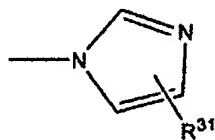
R^{51} is hydrogen and branched and unbranched and C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and

R^{52} is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, $CO-O-C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, it being possible for one hydrogen of the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical to be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and phenyl and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, C_1 - C_4 -dialkylamino, OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

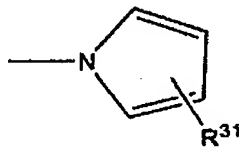
or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or diastereomeric form, a prodrug or

pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

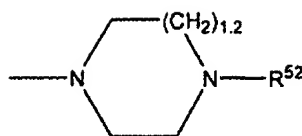
4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 where R^2 is in position 3 and R^3 is in position 4 or R^2 is in position 4 and R^3 is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.
5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^1 and R^4 are hydrogen.
6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^2 is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, nitro, CN, NH_2 , or O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.
7. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where
- (i) for R^3 being



- R^{31} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_w-G$, where
- w is 1 or 2 and
- (ii) for R^3 being



- R^{31} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_p-G$, where
- p is 1 or 2
- and and (iii) for R^3 being
- being



where R_{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, C_1 - C_4 -dialkylamino, OH, O- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, CN, SO_2 - C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^3 is $-D(F^1)_p(E)_q(F^2)_r-G$ where D is O, F^1 is a C_1 - C_4 carbon chain, p is 1, q is 0 and r is 0.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where ~~R^5~~ is R^5 is a 6-membered ring and R^{52} is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10 (Previously Presented) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal suffering from said disorder.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative disease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is stroke ~~or~~ and craniocerebral trauma.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease.
16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.
17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is epilepsy.
18. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or damage resulting after kidney transplants.
19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.
20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a microinfarct.
21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.
22. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct and damage during and after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.
23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis I thereof.
24. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure.
25. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an immunological disease.
26. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.

Claims 27-38 (Canceled)